In the year 2008-09, Ministry of Tourism launched 7 International Media Campaigns in different markets.

(d) and (e) Government of India has taken various measures to promote Medical Tourism in the country. These include extending financial support under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to Medical Tourism Service Providers and Medical Tourism Facilitators for promotion of Medical Tourism in overseas markets, introduction of an additional category of 'Medical Visa' for foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment, production of publicity material on Medical Tourism and dissemination of information on Medical Tourism through the India Tourism Offices and on the website of the Ministry of Tourism. The specific promotions are also being undertaken through India Tourism Offices in overseas markets by participation in various international fairs.

Foreign Tourists

683. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of India in the world during 2005, 2006 and 2007 was only 0.49 per cent, 0.52 per cent and 0.55 per cent, respectively in Foreign Tourist Arrivals and the share during 2008;

(b) whether there were about 7.59 million international tourist arrivals in Singapore in 2006 as compared to 4.45 million foreign tourist arrivals in India;

(c) how does India compare with Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines, regarding Foreign Tourist Arrivals;

(d) Government's reaction to the above statistics; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to attract tourists from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) As per the latest estimates, the share of India in the international tourist arrivals during the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 was 0.49 per cent, 0.52 per cent, 0.56 percent and 0.58 per cent respectively.

(b) to (d) Number of international tourist arrivals in Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines and India during 2006 and 2007 are given below:

Country	International Tourist Arrivals (million)		
	2006	2007	Growth rate 2007/06
Singapore	7.59	7.96	4.9%
Thailand	13.82	14.46	4.6%
Sri Lanka	0.56	0.49	(-)11.7%
Philippines	2.84	3.09	8.7%
India	4.45	5.08	14.3%

The growth rate of tourist arrivals in India in 2007 over 2006 has been higher than all these countries. It may also be noted that the arrival figures of these countries except Sri Lanka include the

arrivals of their nationals residing abroad. However, in case of India, the arrival figures do not include non-resident Indians (NRIs), as figures for NRIs visiting India are not available.

(e) Ministry of Tourism, through its Indiatourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities with the objective of increasing foreign tourist arrivals. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars & workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals; publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

The Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical, Convention and Conference Tourism in the country.

Encouragement to Tourism

684. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists during past three years and in 2009 up to date;

(b) whether the number of tourists has declined;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to encourage tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The latest available figures of tourists during 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 up to date are as under:-

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (in million)	Domestic Tourist visits (in million)
2006	4.48	462
2007	5.08	527
2008*	5.37	563
2009* (January-June)	2.47	Not Available

* Provisional

(b) and (c) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) as well as Domestic Tourist Visits during 2007 and 2008 have increased as compared to the preceding year. The number of FTAs during January-June 2009 has declined by 9.3% over the corresponding period of 2008. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008.